Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A rare-earth sintered magnet comprising an $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound (where R is at least one rare-earth element, T is at least one transition metal element always including Fe, and Q is boron and carbon) as a main phase and a grain boundary phase surrounding the main phase, the sintered magnet comprising:

12 at% to 18 at% of R,

60 at% to 88 at% of T,

0.1 at% to 2.4 at% of Cr,

0.5 at% to 13 at% of B, and

0.4 at% to 4.5 at% of C

wherein the $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound as the main phase includes Cr, which substitutes for a portion of Fe, and carbon, which substitutes for a portion of boron, as respective essential elements, [[and]]

wherein the concentration of carbon in the main phase is higher than that of carbon in the grain boundary phase, and

wherein 50 at% to 90 at% of the overall grain boundary phase is Co.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The rare-earth sintered magnet of claim 2, wherein the grain boundary phase includes an R_3Co compound.

4. (Previously Presented) The rare-earth sintered magnet of claim 1, wherein the $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound as the main phase further includes Co as another essential element that substitutes for a portion of Fe.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Previously Presented) A rare-earth sintered magnet comprising an $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound (where R is at least one rare-earth element, T is at least one transition metal element always including Fe, and Q is boron and carbon) as a main phase and a grain boundary phase surrounding the main phase, the sintered magnet comprising:

12 at% to 18 at% of R,

60 at% to 88 at% of T,

0.1 at% to 2.4 at% of Cr,

0.5 at% to 13 at% of B, and

0.4 at% to 4.5 at% of C,

wherein the $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound has a natural electrode potential of

-0.75 V or more.

7. (Original) The rare-earth sintered magnet of claim 6, wherein a difference in natural electrode potential between the $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound and the grain boundary phase is at most 0.6 V.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a rare-earth sintered magnet, the magnet including an $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound (where R is at least one rare-earth element, T is at least one transition metal element always including Fe, and Q is boron and carbon) as a main phase and a grain boundary phase surrounding the main phase, the method comprising the steps of:

preparing a powder of a main phase alloy, at least 50 vol% of which is the $R_2T_{14}Q$ type tetragonal compound, and a powder of a liquid phase alloy including R and Co, the main phase alloy including 11 at% to 16 at% of R, 60 at% to 87 at% of T, 0.2 at% to 2.5 at% of Cr, 1 at% to 14 at% of B, and 0.5 at% to 5.0 at% of C, and the liquid phase alloy including 60 at% to 80 at% of R and 20 at% to 40 at% of Co; and

sintering the powders, thereby making a rare-earth sintered magnet in which the concentration of carbon in the main phase is higher than that of carbon in the grain boundary phase.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein a first alloy including 0.8 mass% to 1.0 mass% of Q and a second alloy including 1.2 mass% to 1.4 mass% of Q are used as the main phase alloy.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the ratio of the liquid phase alloy to the sum of the main phase and liquid phase alloys is defined within the range of 2 vol% to 20 vol%.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

preparing a melt of a material alloy for the main phase alloy; and

cooling and solidifying the melt of the material alloy at a rate of 100 °C/s to 10,000 °C/s.